

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system being divided into directories, the method comprising:

locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

associating one or more template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, each template file being effective, when applied to ~~a~~the content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the or each template file is applied.

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the computer file system is divided into a hierarchical arrangement of directories and in which the one or more templates associated with each directory located in the direct hierarchical path from a directory in which a content file is stored up to and including the uppermost directory in the hierarchical arrangement are also associated with the directory in which the content file is stored.

3. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the association of a template with a directory is made on the basis of the template file being stored in that directory.

4. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:  
associating metadata with each content file; and  
carrying out the respective pre-determined operation on each content file upon the application of an associated template file on the basis of the respective associated metadata.

5. (currently amended) Apparatus for managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system being divided into directories, the apparatus comprising:

means for locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

means for associating one or more template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, each template file being effective, when applied to ~~a~~the content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

means for applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the or each template file is applied.

6. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the computer file system is divided into a hierarchical arrangement of directories, in which the means for associating one or more templates with each directory also associates with the directory in which the content file is stored, the one or more templates associated with each directory located in the direct hierarchical path from a directory in which a content file is stored up to and including the uppermost directory in the hierarchical arrangement.

7. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 in which the means for associating one or more templates with each directory makes the association of a template with a directory on the basis of the template file being stored in that directory.

8. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 further comprising:  
means for associating metadata with each content file; wherein  
the respective pre-determined operation on each content file upon the application of an associated template file is carried out on the basis of the respective associated metadata.

9. (previously presented) A computer program storage device readable by a computer, said device embodying computer readable code executable by the computer to perform the method according to claim 1.

10. (previously presented) A signal embodying computer executable code for loading into a computer for the performance of the method according to claim 1.

11. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the association of a template with a directory is made on the basis of the template file being stored in at least one of that directory and a parent directory of that directory.

12. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 in which the means for associating one or more templates with each directory makes the association of a template with a directory on the basis of the template file being stored in at least one of that directory or a parent directory of that directory.

13. (currently amended) A method of managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system storing a plurality of content files and a plurality of template files and the computer file system being divided into directories, the method comprising:

locating one or more of the plurality of content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

associating one or more of the plurality of template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, each template file being effective, when applied to ~~a~~the content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file;  
and

applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the plurality of template files is applied.

14. (currently amended) Apparatus for managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system storing a plurality of content files and a plurality of template files and the computer file system being divided into directories, the apparatus comprising:

means for locating one or more of the plurality of content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

means for associating one or more of the plurality of template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, each template file being effective, when applied to ~~a~~the content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

means for applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the plurality of template files is applied.

15. (currently amended) A method of managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system storing both one or more content files and one or more template files and being divided into directories, the method comprising:

locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

associating one or more template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, each of the one or more template files being stored in one of the directories of the computer file system, each template file being effective, when applied to ~~a~~the content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory.

16. (currently amended) Apparatus for managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system storing both one or more content files and one or more template files and being divided into directories, the apparatus comprising:

means for locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

means for associating one or more template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, each of the one or more template files being stored in one of the directories of the computer file system, each template file being effective, when applied to ~~a~~the content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

means for applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory.

17. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory generates a corresponding templated information-bearing content file whose appearance is controlled by the or each associated template file.

18. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 5, wherein the applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory by the means for applying generates a corresponding templated information-bearing content file whose appearance is controlled by the or each associated template file.

19. (previously presented) A method as in claim 13, wherein the applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory generates a corresponding templated information-bearing content file whose appearance is controlled by the or each associated template file.

20. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 14, wherein the applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory by the means for applying generates a corresponding templated information-bearing content file whose appearance is controlled by the or each associated template file.

21. (previously presented) A method as in claim 15, wherein the applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory generates a corresponding templated information-bearing content file whose appearance is controlled by the or each associated template file.

22. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory by the means for applying generates a corresponding templated information-bearing content file whose appearance is controlled by the or each associated template file.

23. (previously presented) A method of generating templated information-bearing content files using a computer system operating in accordance with an operating system which permits electronic files to be stored in a hierarchical computer file system having one or more directories each of which may store one or more files and may have one or more directories as sub-directories, the method comprising:

associating a template file with a directory, the template file being suitable for controlling the appearance of a document to which the template of the template file is applied;

storing one or more information-bearing content files in the directory; and

automatically processing the or each information-bearing content file in the directory in accordance with the associated template file to thereby generate a corresponding templated information-bearing content file or files, whose appearance is



controlled by the associated template file.

24. (previously presented) A method as in claim 23, wherein the computer file system is divided into a hierarchical arrangement of directories, and the one or more templates associated with each directory located in a direct hierarchical path from a directory in which a content file is stored up to and including an uppermost directory in the hierarchical arrangement are also associated with the directory in which the content file is stored.

25. (previously presented) A method as in claim 23, wherein the association of a template with a directory is made on the basis of the template file being stored in that directory.

26. (previously presented) A method as in claim 23, further comprising:  
associating metadata with each content file; and  
wherein the step of automatically processing each information-bearing content file in accordance with an associated template file is also carried out in accordance with the respective associated metadata.

27. (previously presented) An apparatus for generating templated information-bearing content files, the apparatus comprising:  
a computer system operating in accordance with an operating system which

permits electronic files to be stored in a hierarchical computer file system having one or more directories each of which may store one or more files and may have one or more directories as sub-directories;

means for associating a template file with a directory, the template file being suitable for controlling the appearance of a document to which the template of the template file is applied; and

automatic processing means for automatically processing an information-bearing content file or files within a directory in accordance with a template file associated with such a directory by said associating means to generate a corresponding templated information-bearing content file or files, whose appearance, when displayed using a suitable viewing application, is controlled by the associated template file.

28. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the computer file system is divided into a hierarchical arrangement of directories, and the means for associating a template file with a directory also associates with the directory in which the content file is stored, the one or more templates associated with each directory located in a direct hierarchical path from a directory in which a content file is stored up to and including an uppermost directory in the hierarchical arrangement.

29. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the means for associating a template file with a directory makes the association of a template with a directory on the basis of the template file being stored in that directory.

30. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 27, further comprising:

means for associating metadata with each content file;

wherein the automatic processing means is also operable to carry out the automatic processing in accordance with the respective associated metadata.